

**National Aeronautics and Space Administration**

**Headquarters**

Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 19, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Arthur C. Clarke Awards Reception – October 3, 2006

On October 3, 2006, Arthur C. Clarke Foundation will host its Annual Awards Reception, at the Cosmos Club, Washington, DC. I have determined it to be in the best interests of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this event to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

There are two awards that will be presented, Arthur C. Clarke Innovator Award and the Arthur C. Clarke Lifetime Achievement Award. The Innovator Award is presented each year to a distinguished individual whose initiatives have had recent impact on or hold particular promise for satellite communications and society, and stand as distinguished examples of innovative thinking. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to an individual, a group or an entity that exemplifies the values and accomplishments of Sir Arthur's life. The Innovator Award will be given to Robert Bigelow for pioneering development of versatile space habitats and the Lifetime Award will be given to Walter Cronkite for bringing the wonders of space into our lives.

The reception will be widely attended by officials from other Federal agencies, Congress and their staffers, representative from the private sector, and arts and entertainment. Approximately 250 people have been invited to the event. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is approximately \$50 per person. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR §2635.204(g). I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend the reception without charge.

  
R. Andrew Falcon